Volume 13, Edition 8 August 2009

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club
WIRELESS

Lighthouse and Lightship Week at Point Reyes Lighthouse

The Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club (www.vomarc.org) with the cooperation of the National Park Service (www.nps.gov/pore/)activated the Point Reyes Lighthouse for the Lighthouse and Lightship Week on August 7th and 8th. The event is sponsored by the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (www.arlhs.com).

The VOMARC crew rolled out of Sonoma on Friday morning after a fortifying breakfast at the Palms Grill with N6KM in the lead and K6UUW close behind.

After what seemed like an eternity, from the Co Pilot seat (must have been all the coffee from breakfast) the caravan arrived in Point Reyes Station to pick up supplies. Upon our arrival at the lighthouse, we were greeted by Melinda, one of the wonderful park staff who made the event an enjoyable experience. We set up in one of the garages and began putting the equipment together.

The Windom wire antenna was strung up first so we could put a radio on the air and then the Cushcraft R7 vertical was assembled and connected. After chasing some coax gremlins down we were on the air, but where was everyone. Band conditions left a lot to be desired. We made about 80 contacts on 20 meters and only 9 on 40 meters. We were running low power on 40 meters because the power supply for that radio was having issues and could not handle radio output of more than 10 watts.

I did not read the sign before I walked down the 308 steps to the lighthouse. The sign at the top warned that it is a stressful hike and the equivalent of climbing the stairs of a thirty storey building. I need to remember to read the warning signs next time!

Friday night was spent at a campground in Olema, with dinner in Point Reyes Station.

After more coffee in Point Reyes Station on Saturday morning we were back out at the lighthouse. W1EJ was back to try and get a few more CW contacts but the low power was really hurting. The weather was very nice and warm in the morning.

At noon our wonderful support crew showed up with a spectacular lunch. It was a much needed boost to help us forget about the terrible band conditions and help us get through the afternoon. Kim, from the Park Service stopped by to video the crew operating the radios with the intent of using the footage for a podcast from the park.

I would like to thank everyone who made this event possible. It was a lot of fun and I hope we have the opportunity to go back again. Band conditions should improve by next year and we might be able to rack up a few more contacts with 2 operating radios.

Minutes of July 2009

The meeting was called to order by president Dave at 1932 hours.

Roll call and introductions were done with 12 members present.

Minutes: There was one correction in the minutes. The date for the next VE session is the 22nd instead of the 31st as reported.

Treasurer: The treasurer reported $2702.84 in our account with some Field Day bills to be paid.

ACS report- ID renewal is in progress as expiration date is next year. The annual air show at Santa Rosa airport is on 15,16 Aug.

Special event call sign, N6P has been issued to VOMARC to honor lighthouse/light station week. VOMARC will operate a station at PT. Reyes lighthouse on Aug, 7,8. The event is listed in the Aug issue of QST.

Hamfest for next year. Need to get on Sonoma city council agenda to request a free day. The dates of Apr. 23rd and the 30th were mentioned.

It was decided to have the club's Xmas party at Mary's Pizza Shack on Dec. 2nd.

Nominations for next year's officers were discussed and put on the agenda for the Sept. Meeting.

The Aug. meeting will be on Aug. 19 at the SDC.

The next VE session is on Aug 22.

Ken suggested that that the Sept. meeting be held at the Sonoma Fire Dept.

Submitted by Jim, K6UUW, vice president.

FROM THE TOP: Fog and Wind at Point Reyes Lighthouse!!!!.

The next meeting is August 19 and will be held at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Development Center.

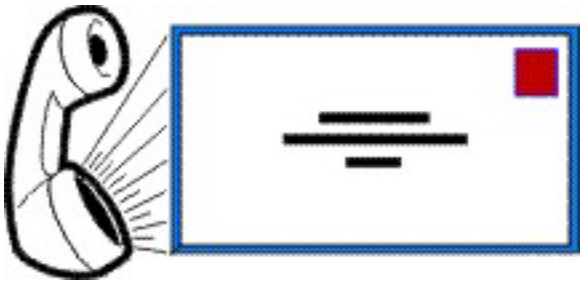
It was not a big surprise about the fog and wind at Point Reyes Lighthouse. It is known as the windiest place on the pacific coast and the second foggiest. We operated on August 8 and 9 for the Amateur Radio Lighthouse and Lightship week.

Two intrepid travelers from the club made the trek to Oshkosh for the big air show and there should be plenty of stories to print in the coming months. Welcome back weary travelers. Check out this great video of WD6BOR and K6UUW taking off from Brodhead Wisconsin. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xHRRY7EQ0Q&feature=related

We still need net control stations for the VOMARC Wednesday night net for August. Let me know if you are interested.

Have you paid your VOMARC dues? be sure to send your check to stay on top of all the club news!

Hope to hear you on the air and see you at the meeting.



We Get Email

Craig, K6XLT sent an email that he is coordinating a couple of upcoming events You can reach Craig at K6XLT@sonic.net:

I've got a couple of public service events coming up very soon. I have MS Society's Waves to Wine on Sept 12-13.

Also on 3 October I have Levi's Gran Fondo. W2W will cover SF to Rohnert Park byway of Highway 1 on Saturday and RP to Lake Sonoma on Sunday. Of course I have Rest stops, sags and net control spots available. Levi's Gran Fondo will occur in West Sonoma County with the same needs.

Craig
K6XLT

2009 ACS Net Control Assignments

Month	Name	Call
AUGUST	CRAIG	KF6QZP
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

2009 VOMARC

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AUGUST		
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DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

THE VOMARC WIRELESS
VOLUME 13 EDITION 8

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL– President

Jim Hill, K6UUW
Vice-President, Training Officer

Joan Brady, W6WXU – Secretary

Marty Nemiroff, KI6RTP – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Joel Nadler, NN6J – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmeistress, Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge or the Sonoma Fire Station on 2nd St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: http://www.vomarc.org/

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

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Sonoma, CA 95476

THE NEXT VOMARC MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, AT MC DOUGAL HALL AT THE SDC IN ELDRIDGE AT 7:30PM
SEE YOU THERE.

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2009 Membership Dues: $15/year individual; $5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

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City: _____ State: _____ ZIP:_____

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: $ _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. It tells you when your VOMARC dues are due. Dues may be mailed to Marty KI6RTP, 20829 Via Colombard, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. If there is any mistake, please do not shoot the messenger; email Eileen KG6QNT at Eileen@vom.com. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**